



Għaqda Residenti Sliema

Sliema Residents Association

SRA PO Box 66 Sliema

www.sra.org.mt

info@sra.org.mt

Subject :Report No. 1 re nuisances / hazards within Sliema

Dear Mayor,

Reports are being compiled by SRA to highlight nuisances and possible hazard areas within the locality of Sliema with the hope that such problems are tackled and resolved once and for all by the competent institutions for the benefit of all residents. These reports will be forwarded to the Sliema Local Council to use its own channels to push with the relevant departments / authorities so as to eliminate such nuisances / hazards. The Sliema Residents Association will pressure the Local Council on such issues as it deems that these irritate / pose a hazard to the residents. This first report deals with the following problems:

1.1 Catering and News Kiosks in Ghar id-dud

1.2 Structure at It-Torri

1.3 Speedy Petrol Station

1.4 Dingli Circus

1.1 Catering and news kiosks in Ghar id Dud

A while back, thousands of Euros were spent in embellishing the promenade at Ghar-id-Dud but the eyesores remain. Everybody expected that the owners of the worn-down and pathetic looking kiosks would be requested to upgrade as befitted the new look. Time has passed and these



properties are still there, and it would seem that the Sliema Council is either powerless or not persistent enough in their efforts to insist that these monstrosities are removed and replaced by MEPA approved structures on a footprint as set out by MEPA or the Lands department as required by law, and not as decided by the owners themselves. These catering outlets sell at prices similar to establishments who pay thousands of euros in leases every year and the least they



should be expected to do is invest some of their profits to improve their place of business. What is the policy regarding the use of advertising tables, chairs and umbrellas on public land?

Last summer some works were carried out on **Martin Tanti Kiosk**, the one directly opposite The Preluna Hotel, **extending its**



footprint by at least one third. One side was being torn down and an extension, of about 8 to 10 Sqm was being added on to this monstrosity. Recently laid slabs were ripped up and a fresh coat of paint applied to the whole structure, which now includes a toilet. Were the necessary permits from Public Health, Mepa, the Police and the Lands Department granted? Was the Sliema Local Council involved in any way? Under

what conditions are these owners allowed to operate and are they granted on a permanent lease of for a period? Are they subject to tenders? No doubt this will encourage the other hideously ugly structures in the area to become ever bigger, as well as uglier.



What is the Sliema Local Council doing to solve this situation?

Background

FW: Encroachment on promenade in Ghar-id-dud Sliema

From: **robert pace-bonello** (rpacebonello@hotmail.com)

Sent: March 31, 2009 1:58:06 PM

To: jason.azzopardi@gov.mt

Dr J Azzopardi

Parliamentary Secretary

Dear Dr Azzopardi

Your office acknowledged my email (see below) but I am most disappointed that you have not extended me the courtesy of a reply.

In the meantime the kiosk in question is open for business as usual. Since you are obviously very busy, perhaps you could ask one of your assistants to let me know what your department intends to do about this 'land grab' and the pother issues raised in my email.

Regards

Robert H Pace Bonello
Coral 1, Milner Grove
Ghar-id-dud Street
Sliema
MALTA

Tel: 00356 2131 4986
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email: rpacebonello@hotmail.com

From: rpacebonello@hotmail.com
To: jason.azzopardi@gov.mt
Subject: Encroachment on promenade in Ghar-id-dud Sliema
Date: Wed, 4 Mar 2009 16:15:51 +0100

Dr J Azzopardi
Parliamentary Secretary

Dear Dr Azzopardi

I wish to bring to your attention, what I suspect, is a blatant encroachment on Public Land by a kiosk in Ghar-id-dud Sliema since I did not see a notice from MEPA to the effect.

Last week I noticed some works being carried out on **Martin Tanti Kiosk**, directly opposite The Preluna Hotel. One side was being torn down and an extension, I estimate, of 8/10 Sqm was being added on to this monstrosity. Recently laid slabs were ripped up and a fresh coat of paint applied.

No doubt this will encourage the other monstrosities in the area to become ever bigger, as well as uglier, and, together with everyone who uses the beautiful promenade, I fail to understand why hundreds of thousands of Euro has been spent to embellish this popular area

and still allow these eyesores. Perhaps you would be so kind as to let me know under what conditions these kiosks operate and whether they are considered as temporary or permanent structures?

I would also like to draw your attention to, what I consider to be encroachment on Public Land, to two other sites along the Sliema promenade. A few years ago a permanent structure was erected in the **It-Torri** area which was doubled some time later and presently runs half way down one side of this historic property. Besides obscuring the view for the thousands of pedestrians who use the promenade the beauty and majesty of this noble building has been ruined. Further along, in the direction of St Julians, is a **Speedy Petrol Station**. Over the years the area around the petrol pumps has kept growing and today the owners run a full retail establishment from this site. To add insult to injury huge drinks and games machines have been recently been placed directly behind the pumps.

Finally I wish to bring to your attention that it is still difficult for pedestrians to use the pavement in front of **Giorgio's Cafe**, and other cafes in the area, because of chairs and tables blocking the passage. The arrogance of some of these owners knows no bounds and stronger action is obviously called for.

Let me assure you that everybody I know appreciate what you are doing to give Public land back to the public and understand the difficulties in doing so and hope that you will continue in your efforts.

If there are any issues which are not in your remit please let me know - advising the ministry concerned so I can address them directly.

Yours truly

Robert Pace-Bonello
Coral 1, Milner Grove
Ghar id-Dud Street
Sliema
MALTA

RE: Encroachment on promenade in Ghar-id-dud Sliema

From: **Azzopardi Jason at MFEI** (jason.azzopardi@gov.mt)

Sent: October 27, 2009 7:02:53 PM

To: robert pace-bonello (rpacebonello@hotmail.com)

Cc: Customer Care Coordinator at OPM (customercare.opm@gov.mt); Mintoff Lino at MFEI (lino.mintoff@gov.mt); Bezzina Alfred at GPD (alfred.bezzina@gov.mt)

Mr Pace Bonello

I must admit that this email has completely slipped my attention. I apologise.

I thank you for this interest and am asking Mr Bezzina (DG of the GPD) to investigate

Rgds

Jason Azzopardi

PS... as regards Giorgio's I can tell you that Govt has convinced all the catering establishments in the area to submit a universally agreed design for canopies (to be done by Works Dept) to MEPA. This will be a pilot project and we are waiting for MEPA to give the green light.

RE: Copy of email sent to Dr J Azzopardi

From: **robert pace-bonello** (rpacebonello@hotmail.com)

Sent: March 5, 2009 1:03:51 PM

To: sliema.lc@gov.mt

Ms M Arrigo

Mayor

Your Worship

Thank you so much for your prompt response. Your action regarding several of the points raised in my email is appreciated and I humbly suggest that you persist in your efforts. I notice that no mention was made with regards to the structure at It-Torri. Was this also included in your meetings with the relevant authorities?

I look forward to your lodging a complaint with the competent authorities and would kindly ask to be informed when done.

Assuring you of my fullest co-operation at all times.

Yours truly

1.2 Structure at It-Torri



A few years ago a permanent structure was erected in the **It-Torri** area which was doubled some time later and presently runs half way down one side of this historic property. Besides obscuring the view for the thousands of pedestrians who use the promenade, the beauty and majesty of this noble building has been ruined. It seems quite unlikely that MEPA would have granted

permission for this to be erected. This issue was raised by Mr Robert Pace Bonello in a communication with the then mayor, Ms Arrigo, amongst other matters. Interestingly Ms Arrigo had, more or less, commented on the other issues but completely ignored this matter. Would the Sliema Local Council please look afresh into this matter and find out if this building has all the necessary



permits and take action if in the negative?

1.3 Speedy Petrol Station

Further along, in the direction of St Julians, is a Speedy Petrol Station. Over the years the area around the petrol pumps has kept growing and today the owners run a full retail establishment from this site. To add insult to injury huge drinks and games machines have been recently placed directly behind the pumps. Again are all permits in place? The site is not that much aesthetically pleasing either, being frequented by thousands of tourists.

1.4 Dingli Circus



Dingli Street is one of the most elegant streets in Sliema's most graceful neighbourhood and Dingli Circus is situated in the lower part of the street. This area is surrounded by beautiful buildings and, until a couple of years ago, was mostly a quiet and orderly neighbourhood. No longer!

Dingli Circus has become an unregulated market with the advent of 2 green grocers who have taken over the larger part.

One very arrogant greengrocer displays wares on pavement and on window sills in Creche Street and the whole area is a mess. Especially on Mondays and Thursdays pedestrians, in the larger part, elderly, must use the road and risk life and limb on a daily basis. The same vendor had used a site slightly up the road, in contravention to regulations, but



was eventually removed after persistent complaints by one of the neighbours. Worst example of an

unregulated market in the very heart of Sliema – 300/400 metres distance from the office of the Local Council. How the council allows this confusion to persist under its very nose is incomprehensible.

These illegal hawkers who both own shops in the adjoining streets are using Dingli Circus as an extension of their business, making free use of public land,



causing traffic problems, securing 4/5 permanent parking space on a 24 hour basis 365 days a year and obstructing pavements to the detriment of all. The situation is made worse when other hawkers decide to open shop in the Circus.

The neighbours, mostly elderly, are annoyed and very angry at the SLC for ignoring their many complaints. They have no problems with the owners operating within the confines of their shop but this situation must be remedied. Do these vendors have the necessary permits, police, trade, etc to operate?



These shop owners either have the right to do what they are doing or they must be stopped once and for all. If they are operating illegally then the SLC

must act and return this once peaceful and orderly neighbourhood to what it used to be. They must, however, be persistent since these traders, one in particular, is terribly arrogant and go about paying their fines and continuing with their business.



The neighbours living in Dingli Circus and adjoining streets look to the SLC to back their promise to make Sliema better – in action and not in words.

Best regards

The SRA Committee